

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Sandi Dickey, Laura Mann, Guillermo Fisch, Clinton Bryan. City Administrator Jan Brending was present. City Attorney Tad Connors was represented by Chris Lanz. Audience: Carl Warren, Tony Domish, Robert "Bo" Vanderkloot. Maria Rosa "Rosie" Salguero, Richard Tillinghast.

## **Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2011**

Guillermo Fisch moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2011 regular council meeting. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Student Council Member – Interview and Appointment**

Betty Barnes said there are three applicants for the student council member position: Maria Rosa "Rosie" Salguero, Adriana Benitez and Sara Hawkinson. Barnes said that Adriana Benitez and Sara Hawkinson cannot be present at tonight's meeting due to "Senior Night" at the high school.

Rosie Salguero introduced herself to the council. She said that she is a junior at Columbia High School and has lived in Bingen for 11 years. She said she is a National Honor Society member and is involved in Future Business Leaders of America.

Betty Barnes noted that Benitez and Hawkinson are both seniors.

Catherine Kiewit asked Rosie Salguero what she would like to get out of serving as a student council member.

Rosie Salguero said it would be an honor to serve on the council and that she has started to get more involved in things at school. She said she would like to attend college to study psychology after graduating from high school.

The council agreed to delay appointing a student council member to the February 15 meeting. Betty Barnes asked Rosie Salguero to provide a resume similar to what was provided by Adriana Benitez. She noted that the students appointed at the February 15 meeting will also be sworn in that evening.

Council members thanked Rosie Salguero for being present.

## **Daubenspeck Park – Removal of Cottonwood Tree**

Betty Barnes said staff has provided a memorandum with some additional information regarding the cottonwood tree in Daubenspeck Park. She said several arborists have recommended to wait and see how the tree does through the upcoming growth cycle.

Clinton Bryan said he thought it was great to get more input into the matter.

Richard Tillinghast said he lives in Bingen. He said that he thought Bingen had done something right by making the tree as the center piece of the skatepark. Tillinghast said he believes the tree has an impact on the children. He said he does not think the roots of the tree will grow a lot more and that the area where there might be an impact to the concrete is the least used part of the skatepark. Tillinghast said he believes it is wise to employ a wait and see approach and that cracks can be fixed.

Carl Warren thanked the council for taking the time to listen. He said that it looks like the trend of the memorandum provided to the council is to wait and see what happens. Warren provided a disc of construction photographs that he took during the construction process.

Bo Vanderkloot said the council has not discussed that the removal of the tree might also cause the concrete to crack. He said it was a dumb idea not to leave enough space around the tree. Vanderkloot said that if the tree is removed voids may occur where the roots are dying and decaying which could also cause problems. He said the city needs to have pruning standards and provided pruning standards to the city.

Jan Brending said she is looking at different ways to establish a maintenance contract for the city's trees including establishing a contract with a certified arborist separate from the contract for maintenance. She said the arborist would be charged with establishing the specifications for the maintenance contract including pruning standards.

Laura Mann moved to reconsider the decision to remove the cottonwood tree from Daubenspeck Park. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Laura Mann moved to take a wait and see approach regarding the cottonwood tree and to evaluate the tree's health in October. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Request for Temporary Partial Closure of E. Humboldt Street – NAPA**

Clinton Bryan stepped down from the council for the discussion of the request for a temporary street closure submitted by NAPA as he works for NAPA and will present the request.

Clinton Bryan said NAPA is requesting a one-day closure of E. Humboldt Street so they can hold the "Rock-N-Roll Tool Event."

Betty Barnes said she and Jan Brending met with Clinton Bryan and looked over the area of E. Humboldt that would be closed. She said the area that would be most impacted is the apartments on the north side of the street. Barnes said however, there is angled parking immediately adjacent to the apartments on Oak Street where tenants could park for the day. She said she believes the impact would be minimal.

Clinton Bryan said he has spoken with the majority of the neighbors on E. Humboldt who have no concerns.

The city council discussed providing access for emergency response vehicles.

Betty Barnes suggested allowing the entire 100 block of E. Humboldt to be blocked off with the review by the fire chief and police department for emergency access within that block.

Jan Brending suggested that a written agreement could be developed that would be signed by NAPA.

Laura Mann moved to authorize a block party in the 100 block of E. Humboldt on June 22 with NAPA to sign an agreement that addresses providing emergency response access and keeping all crosswalks and sidewalks clear. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Bryan – Abstain, Dickey – Aye, Fisch – Aye, Kiewit – Aye, Mann – Aye.

Clinton Bryan took his seat as city council member after the discussion.

### **Bingen-White Salmon Police Department**

Tony Domish said he attended the "Pizza in the Park" event where 10 kids were in attendance.

Tony Domish said that the police department has identified the person who caused a small accidental fire in the restrooms at the park. He said the young man will be doing community service work in Bingen. He noted there was another recent event where sparklers were tied together and placed under a garbage can in the restroom and then lit. Domish said he is concerned that this type of activity can progress to other things.

Clinton Bryan asked if the police department was pursuing criminal charges through the court for the first incident.

Tony Domish said no that he did not believe it would be possible to get a conviction.

Tony Domish reported that the police department will be participating in the HUGS Fair.

Jan Brending said HUGS stands for "Help Us Grow Safely" and is directed towards children in the community.

Betty Barnes said that she appreciated Domish's attendance at the Pizza in the Park event where he took the time to talk to the kids.

Tony Domish said he is impressed with the city's park and that there does not appear to be much graffiti.

Betty Barnes said Tony Domish did warn her about tennis shoes that were hanging in a tree. Tony Domish said they can represent a recent homicide or a drug-friendly location.

Jan Brending said the shoes have been removed.

Tony Domish said the police department is working on a large theft case in Bingen. He said he will likely have to pull someone from patrol to work on the case.

Tony Domish said he has come up with the idea of having a dance for the high school and middle school possibly at the Bingen School Inn. He said the middle school dance would be from 7 to 9 pm and the high school dance would start at 9:30 pm. Domish said he is working to recruit kids to plan the event and hopes that it can happen each month and benefit different charities.

Betty Barnes asked if the city should begin locking the restrooms at 6:00 p.m.

Tony Domish said that it is reasonable to lock the bathrooms when it is dark.

Laura Mann recommended that parents or senior students be recruited to provide security at the dance.

Tony Domish said that he has done a number of similar events with no problems.

Tony Domish reported that the department has three applications for reserve officer and will be starting the reserve training on March 1 with Bingen-White Salmon candidates attending via video so they do not have to drive to Goldendale.

### **Treasurer's Report – December 2010**

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for December 2010. She noted that line item detail has been provided so the council can see how things came in at the end of the year.

Guillermo Fisch moved to accept the December 2010 treasurer's report. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Laura Mann applauded Jan Brending and each employee for a great year-end budget position.

### **Mayor's Update and Council Comments**

#### ***Solid Waste Advisory Committee***

Betty Barnes said she is appointing Laura Mann to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee with Guillermo Fisch as an alternate. Barnes said Don Struck will be at the council's next meeting to discuss solid waste planning.

#### ***Port of Klickitat Thank You Letter***

Betty Barnes said the Port of Klickitat has sent a thank you letter to the council for writing a letter to the congressional delegation regarding new access into the port. She said the letter also thanks Jan Brending for her time in putting together a stakeholder's meeting.

#### ***Public Official's Liability Workshop***

Betty Barnes noted that Canfield & Associates is putting on a Public Official's Liability Workshop at the White Salmon Fire Hall tomorrow at 5:00 p.m.

#### ***Firstenburg Grant Application***

Betty Barnes said Catherine Kiewit is helping to put together the grant application for the Firstenburg Foundation.

#### ***Gorge Heritage Museum Request***

Jan Brending said the Gorge Heritage Museum has requested authorization to hold a quilting class at the museum. She said all fees for the class and the raffle funds from the quilt are a fundraising project for the museum.

Sandi Dickey moved to authorize the museum to hold a quilting class as fundraiser for the museum. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

#### ***Stakeholder's Meeting – Port of Klickitat County Access***

Jan Brending said the stakeholder's meeting regarding new access into the Port of Klickitat is scheduled for tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

#### ***Chris Lanz, Connors & Lanz Attorneys at Law***

Chris Lanz introduced himself. He said he is representing Tad Connors while he is away on vacation.

**Vouchers**

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date February 1, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12898-12928 totaling \$21552.51. Current – \$5967.94; Street - \$5755.16; Fire Equipment - \$609.00; Water - \$6012.49; Sewer - \$581.94; Treatment Plant - \$2625.98.

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date February 1, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (01/31/2011) EFT, 12895-12897, totaling \$11198.68. Current – \$3765.64; Street - \$2027.01; Water - \$1541.16; Sewer - \$238.23; Treatment Plant - \$3626.64.

At 8:25 p.m. the city council adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor